

CLAIMS

1. A method for treating a reformat, comprising:

5 a temperature elevating step of heating a selective oxidation catalyst to elevate temperature thereof, said selective oxidation catalyst being for selectively oxidizing carbon monoxide in said reformat with air for selective oxidation;

10 a selective oxidation catalyst activating step of, after said temperature of said selective oxidation catalyst has been elevated in said temperature elevating step, supplying said reformat, formed in a reforming step of forming said reformat from a hydrocarbon fuel by steam reforming reaction, to said selective oxidation catalyst for a predetermined time, without supplying said air for selective oxidation, to activate said selective oxidation catalyst; and

15 a carbon monoxide removing step of removing carbon monoxide in said reformat, formed in said reforming step, by said selective oxidation thereof with said air for selective oxidation using said activated selective oxidation catalyst.

20 2. A method for treating a reformat as recited in claim 1, wherein said heating in said temperature elevating step is carried out using a heat generated by an electric heater.

25 3. A method for treating a reformat as recited in claim 1 or 2, wherein said heating in said temperature elevating step is carried out using a heat of oxidation generated by oxidation of combustible gas components in said reformat, formed in said reforming step, by said air for selective oxidation using said selective oxidation catalyst.

30 4. A method for treating a reformat as recited in any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein said heating in said temperature elevating step is carried out using a heat of combustion generated in a combustion step of combusting a combustion fuel using a combustion

catalyst.

5. An apparatus for treating a reformat, comprising:

carbon monoxide removing means, filled with a selective oxidation catalyst, for removing carbon monoxide in said reformat, formed in reforming means for forming said reformat from a hydrocarbon fuel by steam reforming reaction, by selective oxidation thereof with air for selective oxidation;

temperature elevating means for elevating temperature of said selective oxidation catalyst; and

control means for performing a control such that said temperature of said selective oxidation catalyst is elevated by said temperature elevating means, that said reformat is supplied in a predetermined amount to said selective oxidation catalyst, whose temperature has been elevated, without supplying said air for selective oxidation, and that, after said reformat has been supplied in said predetermined amount, supply of said air for selective oxidation to said selective oxidation catalyst is started.

6. A fuel cell electric power generating system, comprising: reforming means as recited in claim 5; said apparatus for treating a reformat as recited in claim 5; and a fuel cell for generating an electric power by electrochemical reaction of said reformat, from which carbon monoxide has been removed, with an oxidizing agent gas.